

June 16, 2010

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Today, the House of Representatives passed legislation that will help Congress identify and end ineffective federal programs. Congressman Altmire is a cosponsor of the Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act (H.R. 2142), legislation that will require federal agencies to regularly report on their programs' progress in meeting clearly defined performance goals. This legislation passed today by a voice vote and must now be approved by the Senate.

“In order to rein in our nation’s budget deficit, we have to make sure that our government is operating as efficiently as possible,” Congressman Altmire said. “By forcing federal agencies to regularly report on whether programs are actually achieving their stated goals, this legislation will make it easier for Congress to identify ineffective programs that should no longer be funded. Implementing these types of performance-based budget reforms will help to ensure that we are using taxpayer dollars as effectively as possible.”

Under the Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act, federal agencies will be required to work with the Office of Management and Budget to create clear, outcome-based goals for their programs. Federal agencies will also be required to submit quarterly, public reports evaluating their programs' progress, strengths and weaknesses. Congress will use these reports to identify and eliminate duplicative programs and to help improve agencies' overall performance so that they can better serve the American public.

To ensure that Congress has access to impartial information about federal agencies' performance, this legislation also directs the Government Accountability Office to frequently report on whether agencies are meeting their stated goals and are directly benefitting the American public.